

The Great War—1371st Day

The Official Statements

LONDON, May 1.—Field Marshal Haig's reports from headquarters in France to-day said:

NIGHT.—The enemy's artillery has been active to-day against the back areas in the neighborhood of Bethune and has heavily shelled French positions on the Loire sector.

On the remainder of the front there is nothing to report beyond the usual artillery activity and local encounters on both sides.

The number of German prisoners captured by the British armies in France during March was 1,061, including sixty-nine officers. In April a further 5,241 prisoners, including 136 officers, were captured. These figures are exclusive of the prisoners taken by the French.

DAY.—A local attack made by the enemy yesterday upon one of our posts in the neighborhood of St. Julien was repulsed by machine gun fire. Posts held by the enemy in the Metersen sector were rushed by our troops during the night and a few prisoners were secured by us.

By a successful minor enterprise carried out last night French troops improved the positions held by them in the neighborhood of Loire.

Guns Active North of Montdidier, Says Paris

PARIS, May 1.—The War Office announcement to-day said:

NIGHT.—There is nothing to report during the course of the day except quite lively bombardments in the region north of Montdidier. On April 30 Sub-Lieutenant Guerin brought down his twentieth enemy machine.

DAY.—Artillery actions of some violence took place in the region of Villers-Bretonneux and on both banks of the Acre. In Lorraine French patrols brought in prisoners.

French Failed at Dranoutre, Berlin Reports

BERLIN, via London, May 1.—The official communication from headquarters to-day reads:

DAY.—In Flanders the firing duel in the Loire and Dranoutre sectors revived to great intensity. French forces, thrown fresh into the battle, attempted vainly to press forward against Dranoutre. Their assaults, repeated several times, broke down under our fire.

On the battlefield on both sides of the Somme we carried out successful reconnaissances. Thrusts into the enemy's lines southwest of Noyon and across the Oise-Aisne Canal, near Varesnes, resulted in the bringing in of more than fifty prisoners.

Germans Prepare To Strike Again on Flanders Front

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was the worst day the Germans have experienced since the opening of the great offensive, the English newspapers, hitherto reticent in view of the fluctuations in the battle, now comment on the operations in one of confidence they have not hitherto displayed.

"The Times" says: "Of all the violent combats witnessed in the last few weeks, none was more decisive than this. The Germans, despite their spectacular successes, can be regarded as having had the worst of the balance of nearly six weeks' fighting, for it must not be forgotten that they sustained a series of disastrous losses of which that of Monday was the most sanguinary of the last fortnight."

Other papers, undoubtedly with more confidence, are more optimistic. "The Standard" says: "The German reserves are exhausted, but confidence is felt that wherever the Germans try they will find the Allies ready. Now that the German offensive has been broken in a sheer trial of strength on ground none too favorable to the thinner Allied line, it is growing more and more evident that the Germans have no chance of success."

The correspondents emphasize the fact that everything favored the Germans. They had magnificent machine guns, masses of men and unlimited explosives, yet they failed after experiencing a day of steady slaughter which only slackened with the fading light.

"The Daily News" concludes a hopeful editorial on the whole position with this paragraph:

"The new British advance in Mesopotamia, the most vulnerable heel of the German military system. Things are not going too well in Russia. The fact that Germany wants her army in Russia back on her own terms throws some light on the state of her power problem, nor is it clear that Germany's efforts to browbeat Holland are working to her advantage. Added to her economic anxieties, Germany has her hands pretty full."

Austrian Offensive Against Italy Urged By German Press

LONDON, May 1.—It is worthy of note in connection with the official statement from Austro-Hungarian headquarters Tuesday reporting increased activity on the Italian front that German papers recently have been referring to a supposed impending revival of the Austro-Hungarian offensive against Italy on a grand scale. The comments have read at times as if they were intended to exert pressure on Austria-Hungary to begin an attack for which the Germans are eager as a diversion on the extreme flank of the Entente front.

Lieutenant General von Ardenne in the "Berliner Tageblatt" writes:

"The tension amid which the world is watching the drama in France and Flanders is likely to be increased as soon as the Italian theatre becomes livelier. It cannot be denied that while the German people await a revival of the fighting activity there with full confidence they also await it with impatience. Never was the opportunity for reviving an Austro-Hungarian offensive more favorable than at present."

VIENNA, May 1 (via London).—An official statement issued to-day by the Austrian War Office says:

"More lively fighting activity on the Southwestern front continued throughout the whole of yesterday. Italian reconnaissances were frustrated at several points."

Germans Not Beaten Until Thrown Back, Say War Experts

WASHINGTON, May 1.—War Department experts asserted to-day that, strictly speaking, the arrest of the German drive in Flanders cannot properly be called a German defeat, even assuming that the enemy had reached his maximum effort, and that to indicate defeat there must be a German recoil.

It was believed the present situation might easily be turned into a German defeat. The enemy, it was asserted, seemed to be absolutely held now, and would have to recede as the Allies' full force could be brought to play. The Germans were said to be rehabilitating their forces, preparing for a counter-offensive, bringing up reserves, guns and supplies.

Military authorities manifested interest in the possible developments in the possible developments in

Austria-Hungary and Germany. If there was serious trouble owing to May Day labor disorders, strikes, etc., it was said, the moment would be opportune for General Foch to launch his counter-offensive.

There was no appreciable anxiety here on account of the delay in the counter-offensive. General Foch, military observers asserted, could afford to wait, as he undoubtedly was being reinforced more rapidly and more strongly than the Germans, and would be all the better able to deliver a blow in a crushing fashion when he decided this time had come for a general Allied attack.

The highest gratification was expressed in official circles that the American troops were able to participate in the battle, and that increasing numbers would enable the United States to take a constantly growing part in the possibly decisive battles this year. The total number of American soldiers already in France has not been disclosed, but it is generally believed that the figure would prove the American public it re-vealed.

Allied spokesmen have reiterated lately that American troops are flowing in a steady stream to France, but it was intimated to-day that the size of this stream, which already was large, would not be diminished, but would increase with every additional available man.

It is expected that the augmentation of America's overseas expedition by the new increments being rushed over will in a very few months bring an end to the brigading of United States soldiers with British battalions.

Mount Kemmel May Prove Death Trap for Invaders

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, May 1 (via Ottawa).—In France, British batteries are constantly shelling Mount Kemmel. Unless the enemy can push on beyond this isolated stronghold the hilltop may become virtually a deathtrap.

The advantage of Kemmel to the enemy is a tactical one. He is now committed to an attempt to push on over will in a very few months bring an end to the brigading of United States soldiers with British battalions.

The German field depots are being heavily drawn upon to replace recent losses. The 13th German Reserve Division has just received a company of 250 boys of the 1919-20 class, who had only eight weeks' training and were not yet fit for service on their own terms. But the fact that they are now in the division in the battle line suggests the anticipation that they may have to be used.

Prisoners say there has been no progress behind the enemy line a good deal of explaining away of defeats. When an attack is repulsed the German officers tell the men it was not serious, intended as an offensive manoeuvre, but merely as a reconnaissance in force to test the strength of the enemy.

Enemy Brings Up More Guns to Shell American Front

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can only mean an endless enemy supply system or pure desperation in an effort to retaliate for the devastating fire of the American batteries.

That this fire is devastating is proved beyond doubt through information which military prudence now prevents being disclosed. It is also permissible to say here that the enemy's "flock fire" is not giving the results which he undoubtedly desires.

An American artillery officer, whose business it is to study the enemy's artillery methods, has estimated that the expenditure of \$5,000 worth of German shells on a certain ten-acre area during a single night netted one American casualty, and that was an aged Missouri mule.

The American troops, though now subjected to the heaviest shellfire in their whole experience in the war, are demonstrating the methods of caution which were carefully drilled into them by officers before their arrival in this sector. Only those whose business is on the surface of the ground remain there.

This is a land of caves. Every peasant has his wine cellar. These cellars have been deepened, widened and strengthened to give refuge to more souls during twenty-four hours of the day hereabouts just now than the surface of the ground.

The open warfare here is rapidly becoming the same old warfare of

the trenches, and there are cellars on both sides. It can revert to open warfare at any moment that one of these sides desires to pay the price. In the meantime it is simply a battle of steel and high explosives.

Patrol Fights in Darkness And Heavy Artillery Fire Keep the Americans Busy

[By Associated Press]

WITH AN AMERICAN ARMY ON A FRENCH BATTLEFRONT, April 30.—The situation along the American sector gradually is becoming stabilized. There have been no infantry encounters in the last forty-eight hours, although small patrol parties or outposts have met in the darkness and mist.

Despite rain and poor visibility, the American and French artillery have been most active in shelling enemy back areas. A certain American battery has been laying a heavy fire on enemy batteries and positions around a certain village, which has been virtually wiped out. The German artillery is less active than on the days immediately following the Americans' appearance on this sector. The Germans are throwing some gas shells.

Weather conditions prevent aerial activity on either side.

Baker to Request Unlimited Army Of Congress

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1917, or any act or acts amendatory thereof, shall not exceed four million."

Under the new classification scheme there are understood to be 1,800,000 men immediately available for active military service in Class 1. That estimate is based on the returns of numerous states and the law of averages.

It excludes all men rated as fit only for limited special service, all delinquents, slated for immediate induction into Class 1, when apprehended, and all the so-called medical cases, the men who will be fit for active service after operations or medical treatment to correct minor physical defects.

Behind that also stand the men who have reached twenty-one years since the draft act was passed and who will be brought in under pending amendments. It is estimated that the total of Class 1 will prove to be 2,600,000 men when the definite figures are available.

This is the first reservoir from which men will be drawn to fill up the new armies. It is considered that the draft act will be exhausted in time, but not that it would fail to furnish all the men who can be shipped to France before Congress meets again. For this reason it is regarded as probable that the question of increasing age limits of the draft act or of drawing upon Class 2 can be deferred until Congress again convenes.

While plans for the future have been shaping up for presentation to Congress, the War Department has been pressing vigorously its efforts to expedite the movement to France of men already under arms.

Secretary Baker appeared to-day before the conference of Shipping Board officials with ship owners and seamen's unions to urge prompt manning of new ships. He told the conference that the accelerated movement of troops was going smoothly.

The record of achievement during the last few weeks is pointed to with pride by War Department officials. Military precautions forbid disclosure of the rate at which the army is being sent to the front, but Mr. Baker will be able to give the House committee tomorrow some interesting figures in this regard.

In pressing forward the troops, the War Department is learning, has abandoned its previous policy of completing organization of a unit before it goes over. Under the new plan, larger units go forward on schedule even if they are short of considerable part of their full enlisted strength at the time. They will be filled up on the other side by drafts from replacement camps in this country.

Killed in Action

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The casualty list to-day contained seventy-two names, divided as follows:

Killed in action, 8; died of wounds, 1; died of accident, 1; died of disease, 1; died of other causes, 1; wounded severely, 5; wounded slightly, 51; missing in action, 2.

Three officers were named: Lieutenants William H. Jenkins and Franklin B. Pedrick are missing in action, and Lieutenant Nathan C. Reed was wounded slightly.

The list follows: (All names not otherwise marked are those of privates.)

Killed in Action
CEDARHOLM, Arvid A., sergeant.
GILES, John, corporal.
GRITZBACK, George, corporal.

Died of Disease
BARNETT, Louis Lorraine.
BOLDEN, Charles H.
HILL, Benjamin.

Died From Wounds
CASEY, Lyndon L.
PESA, John.

Died of Other Causes
MOWERY, William.
Severely Wounded
CAUL, Walter G., corporal.
MURRAY, John, corporal.

Wounded
CARRO, Raphael.
COOK, John J.
REMNONT, Robert B.

Slightly Wounded
REED, Nathaniel C., lieutenant.
GILLESPIE, George A., sergeant.

Missing in Action
JENKINS, William H., lieutenant.
PEDRICK, Franklin B., lieutenant.

APPEYARD, Alfred John, private.
HALLANDER, Angelo.
BROWN, Edward B., corporal.
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Military Comment

By William L. McPherson

THE effects of the German defeat last Monday southwest of Ypres are now becoming apparent. Von Arnim's offensive has been temporarily paralyzed. The Germans have ceased to advance. They have not even been able to hold all of the ground they gained before their savage rushes of last week were stopped. They have had to yield important positions to the west and northwest of Mount Kemmel.

Their furthest advance last Sunday in this sector had carried them to the eastern slopes of Mount Rouge and of Scherpenberg. They had taken Loire from the French and pushed their line beyond the height known as the Cross of Poperinghe.

Since Monday they have been driven back from Mount Rouge and cut of the eastern approaches to Scherpenberg. The Cross of Poperinghe has been recaptured by the French. So has Loire. And the German day bulletin yesterday admitted that the French were attacking Dranoutre, two miles southeast of Loire. Dranoutre lies on the southwestern edge of Mount Kemmel and was taken by the Germans early last week as one of the first steps toward an envelopment of Kemmel.

There is now a healthy drive in the Allied counter attacks. Undoubtedly the Ypres front has been liberally reinforced by General Foch. It is pretty clear now that the Allies have established a line to the west of Ypres which they can hold, even if they should yield the city itself, which now has no more military value than had the salient to the east and northeast of it which the British have deliberately evacuated.

The German offensive is now in a state of subsidence, both in the Somme region and in the Lys Valley. But a renewal of it in both areas is a moral necessity for Germany's military leaders.

Communiqués issued from London late Tuesday night, and again yesterday, disclose a remarkable extension of the British offensive in Mesopotamia. Mosul and Aleppo are indicated as the objectives of a vast forward movement which has for its object to cut Turkey off from all her southerly possessions in Asia.

The advance toward Mosul has been rapid and has met with little opposition. The British have left the valley of the Tigris River and are sending their main force north on a line to the east of the river and close in to the Persian border. On Monday last the advance reached Tuzhurmatli—a town 140 miles north of Bagdad and 115 miles south of Mosul. Yesterday's communiqué reported further progress to Taik, which is less than 100 miles from Mosul. Opposing Turkish forces were easily defeated.

The column which is going up the Euphrates River toward Aleppo had reached, on April 12 last, a point seventy-three miles above Ana. The expedition was then about half way between Bagdad and Aleppo. It may have halted there until its right flank should be better secured by the operation toward Mosul.

There are apparently few Turkish troops in this region. Should the British be able to follow the Euphrates up to the neighborhood of Aleppo they could sever communications between Asia Minor and all the Turkish territory to the south—Syria, Palestine and Arabia. Damascus would be cut off and the Turkish armies trying to hold open the railroad south into Arabia would be trapped.

It is an ambitious and daring piece of strategy. The Turks are for the present absorbed in trying to occupy Armenia and the Russian Caucasus, handed over to them by Lenin and Trotsky at Brest-Litovsk. To Germany Batum probably now seems a bigger prize than either Jerusalem or Bagdad. Possibly a Turkish army, stiffened by a few Germans, may be collected at Aleppo to challenge the British march from Bagdad to the Mediterranean. But the Berlin-to-Bagdad project went by the board when Russia was delivered into German hands. The Turk is more likely to be left to fight alone to recover his ancient Arabian, Syrian and Palestine inheritance.

It is a curious illustration of the far-flung military policy of Great Britain that, pressed as her armies are to-day in France, she still has the means to prosecute an Eastern campaign of vast historical and dramatic significance.

Casualties Among Our Fighting Men Abroad

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The casualty list to-day contained seventy-two names, divided as follows:

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